

MEMORANDUM REPORT

BUREAU OF NARCOTICS

DISTRICT NO. 16

THAI FISHING BOATS

CASE FILE NO.

REPORT MADE

RELATED FILES

GEN. FILE TITLE:

OTHER OFFICERS

AT: Bangkok, Thailand
 DATE: December 14, 1966
 BY: Albert Habib
 Narcotic Agent

SUBJECT OF THIS MEMORANDUM

Thai fishing boats smuggling narcotics from Thailand to Hong Kong and Singapore.

RECOMMENDATION

PENDING:

CLOSE:

FURTHER INVESTIGATION: **xxx**

DETAILS (if report is over two pages in length summarize in first paragraph)

1. On December 12, 1966 I had a conference with Police Major Pramual VANIGBANDHU Central Bureau Of Narcotics regarding the increased number of Thai fishing boats transporting opium, morphine base and heroin from Thai ports into Hong Kong and Singapore. According to reliable information the modus operandi of these traffickers is as follow. After leaving Thai ports, usually at night to elude Customs surveillance, these boats proceed to a prearranged place outside the Hong Kong territorial water or Singapore. There, they would place opium and other contraband in the water and anchor it. (This contraband is previously placed in soldered containers). A day or two after the Thai boat had left the contraband at sea, a Hong Kong fishing boat or junk knowing in advance where the contraband was left would proceed to the location, hook the contraband usually in tin cans and drag it under water into a safe port for distribution to the recipients.

2. This method of smuggling narcotics out of Thailand have been very sucessful, and traffickers are using this system more frequently knowing that Thai Customs and Police are very poorly equiped to intercept any shipment on it's way to Hong Kong or Singapore.

3. During this conference Major Pramual who is the spokesman for General Nitya Bhanumas suggested that our office get in touch with the Admiral Commander of the US 7th Fleet and have him order the US units operating in the Gulf of Siam and the South China Sea stop all Thai fishing boats and search them under the pretense that they might be carrying firearms, and if any of these boats are found to have narcotics to hold them and notify us. Members of the Thai Police will then rendez vous with the US unit seize the narcotics and arrest the smugglers.

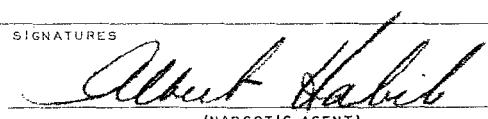
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APPROVED:

(DISTRICT SUPERVISOR)

Wilbert Penberthy

4. I told Major Pramual that the US Navy will never get involved in doing anything like this on our say so, and suggested that the Director General Of Police should confer with the Thai Prime Minister about this. The Prime Minister will then approach the US Ambassador on the subject, as an agreement between Thai and US Governments have to be reached before the US Navy could stop and search any Thai boat on high seas.

5. Major Pramual stated that the Thai Government would have used the Thai Navy to slow down this narcotic smuggling, but the Thai Navy was not sufficiently equiped to do this kind of work. I agreed with Major Pramual that this would be the best answer to the Thai fishing smuggling problems, and again suggested that his Department approach the Thai Prime Minister and work this out on a higher level.